

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 49 of 1901.]

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 7th December 1901.

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Report No. 10

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Washington, D. C.

TO THE DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM THE SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

RE: [Illegible]

1. [Illegible]

2. [Illegible]

3. [Illegible]

4. [Illegible]

5. [Illegible]

6. [Illegible]

7. [Illegible]

8. [Illegible]

9. [Illegible]

10. [Illegible]

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2710. Referring to the case in which Babu Koylash Chandra Chaudhuri, the head of the well-known Shaba Chaudhuri family of Faridpur, was prosecuted for assaulting the police and acquitted, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* wishes to know who is to recoup the man the sum of Rs. 6,600, which he paid in barrister's fees. The journal complains that it is indeed an anomaly that in such a case as this, where the police is the aggrieved party, they should be entrusted with the investigation. Had it been made by a disinterested officer, K. C. Chaudhuri would never have been sent up. It is the police rule which is eating into the vitals of the people, and which, says the *Patrika*, demands Lord Curzon's first consideration.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
30th Nov. 1901.

2711. The *Bengalee* reproduces from the *Faridpur Hitaishini* the details of the foregoing case, and remarks that the disgraceful conduct of the police testifies to a state of demoralization and disorganization which cannot be too deeply deplored. A prosecution of the officers has now been ordered, and the proceedings will be watched with interest.

BENGALUR,
6th Dec. 1901.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

2712. In commenting on the decision of the High Court in the case of Mr. Lyall, the tea-planter, the *Bengalee* remarks that although the sentence may possibly be open to the objection that it is inadequate, yet the fact is thankfully recognised that the ends of justice have been vindicated by the intervention of the High Court on the initiative of the Deputy Commissioner.

BENGALUR,
5th Dec. 1901.

The case of Mr. Lyall, the tea-planter.

The case throws a lurid light on the relations between tea-planters and the coolies in Assam, and shows clearly that the Chief Commissioner has not exaggerated the situation.

This as well as the Hoff case are unhappy illustrations of the way in which European juries deal with cases in which Europeans are the accused and Indians the aggrieved parties.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

2713. The *Bengalee* reproduces a letter from *Capital*, giving an instance of dilatoriness on the part of the Calcutta Corporation in the matter of making out and passing a Bill for the supply of water on a steamer, and points out that the change in the municipal regime has not improved matters, as was fondly expected by the authors of the law. The organisation which fosters delays must be faulty.

BENGALUR,
6th Dec. 1901.

(f)—Questions affecting the Land.

2714. A close study of the report of the Committee appointed to consider the question of Agricultural banks in India cannot help, says the *Bengalee*, convincing the reader that the Committee have made recommendations which are narrow in their scope and leave ample room for improvement. In the main, however, the journal agrees with the policy enunciated, and considers some of their conclusions sound and reasonable. It agrees with the suggestion to substitute the term "Co-operative Credit Societies" for "Agricultural banks."

BENGALUR,
28th Nov. 1901.

2715. Reverting to the scheme of Agricultural banks, the same journal is of opinion that, although the suggestion of the Committee to keep a lien on the agricultural implements of persons owing money to co-operative credit associations is sound and practical, a sufficiency of implements should be left to the agriculturists to enable them to work. This would guard against pauperisation.

BENGALUR,
29th Nov. 1901.

2716. The *Bengalee* reverts to this subject in a subsequent issue, and remarks, with regard to the Committee's recommendation to introduce the limited system of liability, that the Committee did not apparently weigh the comparative merits of the two

BENGALUR,
1st Dec. 1901.

systems in the light of the condition of Indian agriculture and finance. It holds that the unlimited liability system should have preference over the limited, because the trade and credit system of the country have not been proved generally fitted for a development of the limited liability system. It next finds the amount to be subscribed by Government very meagre, and is of opinion that, in view of the huge interest at stake, and not to court failure, Government should open its purse strings more liberally, and if its intention is to place the scheme beyond the experimental stage, it cannot safely be niggardly in its help.

It next objects to the unlimited powers that are sought to be invested in the Registrar. He cannot create societies, but it will be easy for him to unmake them. An indiscreet or unsympathetic Registrar will have no difficulty in sealing the fate of a society with a single stroke of the pen. In conclusion it observes:—

We are led to believe the Committee has sought to serve more the Government interests than those of the agriculturists, in that its aim apparently has been to provide, not as it should have been, for a maximum of State aid to the cultivator, but for a maximum of security to Government, combined with a minimum of risk—a minimum of responsibility jointly with a maximum of control. It is apparent the scheme is bound to be a failure, or at best a paper scheme, for, under it, neither the agriculturists nor business can thrive on conditions laid down by the Committee.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th Nov. 1901.

2717. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* criticises the admission made in the statement on famine by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, that "in the earlier stages Government underestimated the resources and staying powers of the inhabitants of Guzerat." This admission proves the *Patrika's* contention that it is impossible for aliens to govern a country without the cordial co-operation of the people of the soil. Their failure to gauge the extent of their requirements is inexcusable. They are paid princely salaries and are conceited enough to think they are capable of doing anything. But the result is that hundreds of thousands of people die of actual starvation because of the incompetence of the officials. All this would be impossible if District Officers kept in touch with the people, and, on the approach of famine, gave *tuccavi* advances.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including canals and irrigation.*

BENGALIEE,
1st Dec. 1901.

2718. The *Bengalee* ventilates the grievance of passengers by the Punjab mail of the East Indian Railway who desire to avail themselves of the Madras mail of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. It is complained that the Punjab mail arrives at Howrah at 7-9 P.M. and the Madras mail leaves at 7-10. There being no time to rebook, passengers are left behind. It is suggested that the time of the departure of the Madras mail be altered to 7-24.

(h)—*General.*

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
24th Nov. 1901.

2719. *Power and Guardian* points out that out of a total of 83 gazetted appointments in the Opium Department, only 6 are held by natives. These figures stultify the object of the Public Service Commission and accentuate the feeling of subjection.

It presses for equality of treatment and the discontinuance of the system of nomination.

BENGALIEE,
1st Dec. 1901.

2720. Following in the wake of the *Bengalee*, which some months ago wrote a series of articles on the minor civil services, the same paper, in its next issue, takes up the Customs Department, and shows that from this service Indians have been totally excluded. It quotes the opinion of Sir Charles Trevelyan to prove that the whole of the appointments in the Customs Department might be filled by natives, and points out that it is a law of nature that, without showing favour and justice, sympathy and confidence, honest affection and heartfelt loyalty cannot be extorted from another. It recommends the Congress to take up the subject.

2721. The *Bengalee* attempts to show that the annual reports of the Government Central Press are incorrect and misleading, and would not assist the Committee now sitting to (1) ascertain the cost of printing and (2) fix a schedule of rates.

BENGALIE,
28th Nov. 1901.

2722. Continuing its criticism of this department, the *Bengalee* is sure that the reprehensible practice of manipulating the figures shown in the annual reports issued by the Government Central Press, by which the costs of supervision are shown at reduced figures by increasing the figures showing the actual payments made to workmen, when, as a matter of fact, no such payments have been made, could not have the knowledge or sanction of the Department of Finance and Commerce.

BENGALIE,
1st Dec. 1901.

It next insists on the certificate of the Comptroller, India Treasuries, as to the annual disbursements, showing details of the disbursements and not the aggregates. This is absolutely necessary to prove that the details have not been manipulated.

BENGALIE,
4th Dec. 1901.

2723. The *Bengalee*, continuing its observations on the working of the Government Central Press, shows that in the matter of printing paper books in appeal cases, pending before the High Court, and the charges for demi-official work, the Government has sustained substantial loss.

BENGALIE,
28th Nov. 1901.

It is the clear duty of the Finance and Commerce Department to ask the Examiner of Press Accounts to find out the exact amount of loss sustained by the Government on composition, as well as ascertain the exact figures in respect of supervision charges. If it is not possible for the Government Central Press to print paper books without incurring a loss, the *Bengalee* does not see why they should not be printed at private presses.

2724. The *Bengalee*, in the course of an appreciative article on the paper on the "Creation of Industries in India," read by Mr. L. Palit, c.s., in England, remarks that the true remedy for famines is to be found in the revival of Indian industries, and wonders how the Government does not see this or, if it does, conceals its recognition of this elementary truth.

BENGALIE,
29th Nov. 1901.

2725. The *Bengalee* expresses the opinion that the decision of the Government to transfer Govindpore to Burdwan is premature and that the question might be taken up when the larger issue of a separate coal district is being discussed.

The Govindpore subdivision.

It reiterates the objections it has to the proposal, and repeats the warning that the Sonthals are a quick tempered, reckless people, who would resent the projected transfer, and concludes that to act in disregard of the unanimous opinion of local officials, the zamindars and people, and the disinterested testimony of the Revd. Mr. Campbell would be an act of administrative recklessness for which there is no justification.

BENGALIE,
30th Nov. 1901.

2726. In a later issue the same paper subject, and enquires whether a sufficiently strong case has been made out for the proposed transfer. It suggests that, to overcome the inconvenience of Govindpore being situated so far from Purulia, the head-quarters of the subdivision should be removed to Dhanbaid, which is on the railway line and within the subdivision of Govindpore.

It appeals to the Government to weigh the hardships which the change would inflict on the people with the trifling inconveniences now felt by the mine-owners, and desist from sanctioning the proposed transfer.

It says:—

"Do we live under a *regime*, where it is a part of the policy of the Government to subordinate the interests of the masses to those of the classes? If so, let the truth be told, and let the cant of a government, conducted in accordance with the people's wishes and for the the people's benefit, be abandoned. We write more in sorrow than in anger. Nobody could be more solicitous than ourselves for the good name of the Government. We are, therefore, anxious that its measures should conform to the highest traditions of British rule in India. Against class legislation and against measures calculated to benefit a class to the detriment of a whole population, we have always felt it our duty to raise our most earnest protest."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Dec. 1901.

2727. In the event of Govindpore being transferred, what, asks the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, happens to the arrangement sanctioned by Government, which accords Sonthal

The Govindpore subdivision. raiyats of the Govindpore subdivision preferential rates of rent and certain other privileges, among which were long leases; the *ijara* of the village to be held only by a Sonthal, and certain rights in forest and hills. It will be impossible to maintain the terms of this agreement for any length of time, and thousands of Sonthali cultivators will be cast adrift to imperil the peace and good government of this part of the King's dominions.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd Dec. 1901.

2728. The following paragraph appears in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—

Conviction of the *Madras Mail*
for libel.

From a telegram published elsewhere, it will be seen that the *Madras Mail* has been convicted of the criminal defamation case that was brought against it by the President of the Madras Municipality and fined Rs. 205. This conviction, following so soon on the heels of the conviction of the *Patrika* by another Magistrate, will naturally create consternation in the ranks of the Indian newspapers. Indeed, journalism will be almost impossible in this country if the conviction of the *Mail*, like that of the *Patrika*, is not upset by the appellate Court. That the result of the *Mail* case is most astounding we shall show later on. Fancy that, because a Sanitary Overseer of the Madras Municipality was alleged by a correspondent of the *Mail* to have failed to disinfect a house where cholera had broken out, therefore the President of the Corporation came forward to sue the Editor of that paper on the ground that he was the head of the Municipality, and therefore responsible for the doings of his subordinates! This is the first time, we think, that in a criminal case a maligned party was allowed to bring a case against his maligner by a proxy! The President himself was not libelled, but yet he stood as a complainant because his subordinate was alleged to have neglected his duty. Now, suppose, a subordinate of the President were to commit a criminal act—to be consistent, would he allow himself to be prosecuted criminally for the shortcoming of his subordinate? Then, is it really a libel to say, in the interests of the public, that a servant of the Corporation had not disinfected a house, when, as a matter of fact, he did it? We shall discuss all these points when the judgment of the Madras Magistrate reaches our hands.

INDIAN MIRROR,
4th Dec. 1901.

2729. Despite the efforts made by Government to put an end to the sale of cocaine without a license, the pernicious practice, says the *Indian Mirror*, goes on flourishing as roar-

ingly as ever. Mere fines have before now failed to put an end to this illicit traffic, and to effect this some heavier punishment seems to be called for.

BENGALUR,
4th Dec. 1901.

2730. With reference to the memorial to the Secretary of State from the Indian Famine Union, and signed by in-

The Indian Famine Union's me-
morial to Lord George Hamilton.

fluential and high-placed Anglo-Indian officials, since retired, asking for an enquiry into the causes of Indian famines, the *Bengalee* remarks that the time has undoubtedly come when such an enquiry into the larger problem of the causes of famine and the means as to their effective check, has been imperatively necessary. It thinks that any obstructiveness on the part of the India Office to act up to the suggestions of the memorialists cannot be very complimentary to the sense of justice and fair play of the Whitehall bureaucracy, and is constrained to observe that in the event of a refusal, the British public will think that official utterances about India's prosperity are but merely the diplomatic platitudes in which Ministers of State are called upon to indulge to justify their *raison d'être*.

BENGALUR,
6th Dec. 1901.

2731. The *Bengalee* enumerates some of the many duties attached to the

The Administrator-Generalship
of Bengal.

office of Administrator-General for the newly-appointed officer to put his hand to if he desires to inspire public confidence, and trusts that the gentleman selected will be suitable in all respects, for the salary, though handsome, is not really so if a thoroughly conscientious man is to be engaged.

It also recommends that the new holder of the post should be allowed to add to his salary a percentage of the commission which would accrue to

Government through his efforts in increasing the income of an estate. Government should not sacrifice public interest to private entreaty.

III.—LEGISLATION.

2732. The *Indian Mirror* understands that the Bengal Government will be memorialised to restore to the municipalities in the Lower Provinces the privilege of electing two members for the local Legislative Council instead of one. It is anticipated that those municipalities which have officials as Chairmen will not support the movement, but a fairly large number, the representatives of other municipalities, will be assembled in Calcutta soon after the Congress to discuss the subject and draw up the proposed memorial.

INDIAN MIRROR,
5th Dec. 1901.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

2733. Referring to the recommendation of the Muhammadan taluqdars of Bedi to demolish the Hindu temple at Kankaleshwar, in that town, on the ground that formerly a Muhammadan mosque stood on the same site, the *Bengalee* writes that the demolition of the temple would be an act of religious intolerance to which the history of modern India can hardly be said to furnish a single parallel. It reminds the Nizam that the policy of Aurangzeb cannot be revived in the 20th century.

BENGALIEE,
29th Nov. 1901.

2784. The *Bengalee* expresses approval of the appointment of Sir Pertab Singh to the Honorary Command of the Imperial Cadet Corps, but is surprised that the Sikh States are not sufficiently represented in the constitution as at present reported.

BENGALIEE,
4th Dec. 1901.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

2735. The *Hindoo Patriot* takes the British Indian Association, the Indian Association, the Zamindari Panchayat, and the Indian Relief Society to task for not taking sufficient interest in matters concerning the welfare of the people at large, and for not showing that amount of energy in the performance of their duties which was expected of them and which characterised them in years gone by.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
29th Nov. 1901.

2736. Learning that the Maharaja of Kuch Behar's son has received a commission in the London Yeomanry, the *Bengalee* expresses the hope that he will proceed to South Africa if the Yeomanry is ordered for active service and serve his Sovereign as an officer of the British Army there.

BENGALIEE,
6th Dec. 1901.

If the Sikhs and Gurkhas with Indian Officers like Maharaja Sir Pertap Singh of Jodhpur had been employed, it is believed that we should have been within a measurable termination of the war.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 7th December 1901.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

